

THE LEMON GROVE

REVIEW

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What Oscars?
Eastie
Nominations
Inside!



Vol. 51, No. 47

Serving Lemon Grove and nearby communities

Thursday, February 11, 1999

Man Seeks Clue Phillip Giannangeli

"A Van Morrison brown-eyed Jewish cutie." OK. "Mid-life sweetheart trapped in adolescent body." Hmm. "Man Wanted. Brain optional but shirt and shoes required." No doubt what she was looking for.

These were some of the classified ads I ran across late one Sunday afternoon after my editor intruded on my bliss and started me scurrying and digging for ideas for a column in an area that I had absolutely no familiarity with.

As always when these assignments are thrown my way, I know immediately what to do. I took a nap. I like to think of those naps as a clearing my mind; the total focusing of my attention on one subject. A psychiatrist would likely see it as a type of escapism, but since I fired him last summer, I don't don't have to listen to that kind of nonsense anymore.

The nap took 30 minutes. I awoke refreshed and with a completely clear mind. So clear, in fact, that there wasn't even the ripple of an idea anywhere in sight. I knew I had to start with a deadline bearing down on me.

First, I needed to get some measure of this "personals scene." I was vaguely aware that the *Union-Tribune* carried something in the way of personal ads. I also remembered that the radio station I listen to had, at one time, some kind of a meeting/dating/mating service, too.

A friend told me that the Internet was bulging with such services as well. Leads were bumping into each other all over my memory bank. I also recalled the *Reader* had some kind of a matching-up section.

Finally, I remembered that, over the last several years, I've received invitations in the mail to join something called Great Expectations.

Desperately Seeking Someone

75 to arrive)

were offered.

Yes, Great Expectations. According to the cover letter that came with Great Expectations each time, I was somewhat of a catch and would likely fulfill the ultimate desires of a whole slew of females possessing many of the same outstanding qualities that I had — once I let the Expectations people know what outstanding qualities I had.

They said it was the ultimate win-win relationship. Neither party would know who was luckier. Even with such wonderful opportunities knocking at my door, I somehow never managed to send in that requested inventory of my sterling qualities, thus probably ruining the lives of untold members of the opposite sex.

After all these ruminations, I finally dug out the *San Diego Union-Tribune* and found the section called "PoSi-BilitiEs." I started reading to get a sense as to what these possibilities were all about. I found three full pages "where friendship, romance and adventure are on call." You think?

I spent about an hour going through the PoSi-BilitiEs that existed for the week. It was like a giant Wal-Mart of options. Tall, small, big, bad and ugly were all there. I never suspected there were that many folks trying to hook up.

More investigation. Wow! The *Reader* had five or six pages bursting with ads. Not only personal ads from individuals, but ads for everything from a super-market meeting in the produce aisle to a hotel bash where free tickets to a movie (for the first

Mixers and matchers were offered for almost every night of the week at top hotels, too. You could even zero in on the right age range (singles over 30, seniors, etc.), the religion you felt comfortable with ("Equally Yoked Christians" or "Jewish and Single"), or for those who had an athletic bent, something called the "Active Singles Association."

I decided to call the radio station I remembered as having some kind of dating service. KBEST is the station where I heard the promo for a perfect match. I dialed. I got something called Jefferson Pilot Communications of California. There were three stations under the umbrella of Jefferson Pilot. Ah ha.

KBEST is for oldies music. KSON has a country format and the third station was jazz-oriented.

I guessed they had separate data banks for what I presumed would be the different personality preferences of the listeners of these stations. I was told they did. The country contingent was going strong. The oldies effort had been put to rest and I never did find out about the dating jazz devotees.

My truncated research made me tired and I decided I'd just put my head back and imagine that "curvaceous blond" who advertised she was "looking for fun in all the right places."

Fun? Ha! With all the investigative stuff I did, I got a headache. I needed another nap. I wish my editor wouldn't come

up with these kinds of ideas.

Woman Seeks Laugh Cheryl Cohen

My dating life really went downhill when I got married.

But before I took that fatal leap, I had a pretty manic social life. I met all kinds of people through my work as a business consultant, but it isn't a good idea to date your own clientele. More than anything, I wanted to find a man who shared my sense of humor, or could at least tolerate it.

Browsing the personals, I read one man after another wax poetic about moonlit walks on the beach or candle-lit dinners in front of fireplaces with a wealthy, drug-free, non-smoking, leggy, pretty and petite playful paramour.

I decided right away that these ads were entirely too serious for such a ridiculous way of finding a date. It was clear that if I wanted to find someone to clown around with, I'd better weed them out with my own ad, rather than answer one.

My friend, Sue, thought it might be fun to

try a double-dating kind of ad. No problem, I said, and went about the task of baiting some fun guys:

"TWO SLIGHTLY NEUROTIC WOMEN, NO DISTINGUISHING SCARS, SUFFERING FROM BIPOLAR DEPRESSIVE DISORDERS AND

It was like having a second job. For months, I had dates almost every night. It was becoming tedious. Get home. Answer calls. Dress up. Drive to restaurant. Meet dude. Go home.

I soon learned the basics: always meet the date at a neutral location and never, ever commit to anything longer than a cup of coffee.

There's nothing like having to sit through an elegant dinner in Rancho Santa Fe with some excitable guy in fatigues going on about the smell of hot lead or subtly licking a condom package while staring at you from across the table.

A date through the personals is a completely different animal than regular dating. You find yourselves rattling off your likes and dislikes over the telephone or at the initial meeting.

There's no getting to know each other slowly through life experiences together. The qualifying process is almost immediate, but there's also a nagging feeling of obligation to at least meet some of those who made the effort to answer the ad, no matter how pathetic.

There were one-time dates with an anxious chef who had a serious gambling problem, a depressed pilot who got upset that I wouldn't fly with him, a voyeur heir who kept asking me how I felt about home movies, a couple of ex-cops (why are they always ex-cops?), an attorney who cried a lot about his ex-wife, a naval officer who didn't want me to touch his Persian rugs *dammit*, and a ceramist who had too extensive a collection of Devine movies for my taste.

I did have a couple of short relationships out of the ad, and even fell in love once. We had a torrid thing going for about three months (the half-life of a sweaty-palmed romance), but one day he simply disappeared. Vanished, just like that.

I was crestfallen and gave up on the personals ads for awhile. I discovered other ways to live a

Continued on Page 2

Seeking

Continued from Page 1

full life besides dating. You know, nail-biting and origami stapling.

I lost to writing classifieds like: "LOSE WEIGHT BY EATING YOURSELF - ASK ME HOW!" in some local papers just to fill the void.

Since those days in the '80s, I graduated to the computer and the Internet. I've been married and divorced — but ever the eternal optimist, I've never given up on love.

Now and then, I even gather up some optimism and place another ad.

So, if you're a single man perusing the personals, and see one that starts with: "HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO DATE A FUZZ-FACED ESKIMO DWARF-WOMAN? I KNOW I'VE GOT TO BE SOMEBODY'S FETISH BUT NOBODY'S COME FORWARD YET ..." be forewarned. It just might be mine.

Man Seeks Crew Michael Krawczak

This is the story of my long ago personals adventure, which took place in that part of small-town America known as Northwood Washington state. I responded to a promising ad and subsequently received a phone call from its author — a young lady named Tracey.

She told me that she lived with her parents in a house on a lake about 30 miles north of me, and was a co-ed at the local university. Our conversation went well and we agreed on a date when I would drive up and spend a day with her.

On that fateful weekday morning, I arrived in her town early, wanting to be prompt and make a good first impression. Alas, something was lacking in her directions or my understanding thereof, and I had to stop at a phone booth to call her.

"I just stepped out of the shower," she said. "I'm standing here stark naked."

"Cool!" I replied, "I'll be right there."

Tracey clarified the directions, but in the time it took for me to arrive, she had become properly attired. Upon greeting me, her first observation was directed toward my car, a Dodge Coronet 440.

"Gas guzzler," she muttered with disdain.

I let her comment pass. With American captives then in the midst of a 444-day hostage ordeal in Iran, perhaps uncertainty over the long-term effects on petroleum prices had her overly concerned. So much for making that good first impression.

Tracey's family home was indeed on the shore of a beautiful lake. Next to the house was a striking work in progress — a huge wooden boat, complete with below-deck cabin. Noting my obvious curiosity,

Tracey invited me aboard and told me its history.

The boat was her father's personal project. He'd been working on it alone, totally crafting it by hand, for several years. Tragically, he'd begun to lose his vision and was nearing total blindness. She feared that he wouldn't complete the boat.

I gazed down the length of the yard to the beckoning shoreline. I visualized the finished boat being wheeled down to the water's edge for its maiden voyage, with beaming skipper at the helm. The sailor in me was inspired.

Tracey shook me from my daydream. Her itinerary for that morning included a trip to her school to buy books for the new semester. I dutifully folded myself into her sub-compact for the ride to Bellingham.

She picked up her texts, I bought us lunch, then we returned to her home. Her not-so-subtle hints told me it was time to leave. We talked a few times on the phone after that, but she never asked me back and declined my invitations for her to visit. I never saw Tracey again.

Looking back, I should have forgotten about the girl, but gotten to know the father. You have to respect a man who

can single-handedly follow his passion, as did Tracey's dad. I regret not having met him. To this day, I wonder if he ever finished his boat and took it out on the water. I hope that he did.

No longer looking for love, I nevertheless peruse the San Diego *Union-Tribune* "Possibilities" section from time to time, all in the name of getting my full 35 cents worth of entertainment.

Things sure have changed since I delved into the newspaper "meet market" almost 20 years ago. Today's ads feature voice mail, and a preponderance of confusing acronyms. The bland three-letter days of "DBF" and "SWM" are clearly over. Do regular readers really understand what the people "ISO a WWWCPF or SWPJM" are seeking? I must also wonder about the popularity of wrestling around these parts, judging from the frequency of "WWF" entries.

The section that really intrigues me, though, is "Seeking Friends." For a bunch of guys or gals just looking for a new buddy, their phrases of choice, such as, "special friend," "spend quality time with," "married military okay," and "let's surprise ourselves with a gift of friendship," strike

me as peculiar. Then there's that overuse of the word "buff."

Maybe it's time to get reacquainted with the personals. The *U-T* does have that "Seeking Friends" section. How does "Just seeking a boat-building buddy," sound?

Nah, they'd probably want to know if I'm buff enough.

Man Seeks Quiet Greg Eichelberger

Every now and then I wonder just what kind of person would take out space in a newspaper to declare to the world that he or she could not attract anyone in normal, one-on-one situations.

What makes it even more astounding is to actually read how these folks describe themselves.

Most guys describe themselves as "handsome, rich, successful, secure, steady, well-built," and "professional." Women say they are "thin, beautiful, intelligent, loving" and "professional."

Come on. I mean if they were really like this, why would they have to use the print media to meet someone?

A more honest advertisement would look like this:

"White, fat, unemployed male, lives with mother in trailer in Chula Vista, no social skills, no motivation, no future seeks thin, beautiful, intelligent, loving and professional woman for long-term relationship."

Or "Woman, skinny, white, drug-addicted, smoker, three children, different fathers, seeks handsome, rich, successful, secure, steady, well-built professional man. Object matrimony." That would at least give us readers a truthful look.

Anyway, while living in Chula Vista for a year prior to my marriage in 1988, I chanced to receive a phone call around 9:00 in the evening. Few people knew my number, so I didn't expect very many calls. I wasn't really that popular and remain so to this day.

The voice on the other end, a male, said, hesitantly, something about reading my ad in the paper, adding, "I don't know, but think I might be what you're looking for."

I assumed it was one of my few friends making a joke to I told him, in Navy terms, to go and multiply with himself and hung up.

The next evening I got another call along the same lines; the guys asking my name, what I weighed, what color my eyes were and the

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like. Again, in my best and most diplomatic language, I asked him to have sex with something and leave me alone.

Over the next week, there were several more phone calls dealing with people asking me personal questions and trying to get me to do the same. Finally, exasperated, I asked one of the men what number he was calling. To my shock, it was the same prefix, only instead 2233, they were dialing 2333.

When questioned further, he said that he was responding to an ad in the *Evening Tribune* (there were two San Diego daily papers then) under "Seeking A Friend," which is codeword for "Guys Looking For Guys" and "Girls Looking For Likewise."

Evidently, whoever had a near-replica of my phone number found his true love, because shortly after that, the calls stopped coming.

Of course, this was in the days prior to my owning an answering machine, so I don't know exactly how many more people made the same mistake.

I did, however, find myself receiving mail from various gay and lesbian associations, as well as a weekly epistle from "Great Expectations" dating service.

A month or so later, I met my future ex-wife and forgot all about those nights when, for one, brief, shining moment in time, I was the ideal, albeit unseen, male, companion, fantasy, and object of desire.

It is something I have never felt since, nor am I ever likely to again.

What Oscars? It's Eastie time!

For the second time, Forum Publications is preparing to honor excellence in local theater with the 1999 "Eastie Awards."

We have invited six regular East County theater writers to nominate outstanding performances from the 1998 season. This year, we have added the new dinner theater group, H.I.T. Productions, to the tried and true community theater groups, Christian Community Theater, Lamplighters Community Theater and Octad-One Productions.

The nominations are very important, as they represent the best performances of the year as selected by writers who have seen many, if not all, the productions.

Now it's time for the theater audiences to get involved. We invite readers to vote for your favorite actors and actresses and return the ballot to our office by March 12.

The winners will be announced at a special awards ceremony March 20, the night before that Oscar guy tries to crash the scene. Forget Hollywood (at least for 10 minutes...)

There are a couple rules regarding the voting process:

1. Ballots will be available in the six Forum Publications newspapers for the next month. Papers with ballots will be left in the lobbies of all local theaters.

2. If you haven't seen the show, don't vote for the actor. Vote for anyone you've seen, but please don't submit ballots because you happen to know the actor nominated.

3. Anonymous ballots will not be counted. We reserve the right to verify the authenticity of any ballot by calling the voter directly.

4. Casting a ballot will enter you in a drawing for tickets to local theater productions.

5. Two awards will be given on Eastie Night as determined by a vote of the audience attending the awards ceremony. We are rotating the location of the ceremony.

ny, and this year it will be hosted by Lamplighters Community Theater on March 20.

Congratulations to all our nominees! Theater fans don't forget **Vote for the Easties!**



Easties Ballot

Please vote for performances that you have seen with your own eyes.
Mail ballot to: Box 127, Lemon Grove, CA 91946

Your name will be entered into a drawing for tickets to local productions.

Best Actress (Drama)

- ☐ Meghan Blaine - (Cherie) "Bus Stop" Octad
- ☐ Darlene Cleary - (Kate Keller) "All My Sons" Lamp
- ☐ Jill Virginia Costanzo - (Annie Sullivan) "The Miracle Worker" Octad
- ☐ Ginger Radenheimer - (Mother Miriam) "Agnes of God" Octad
- ☐ Layla Stuckey - (Agnes) "Agnes of God" Octad

Best Actor (Drama)

- ☐ Fred Bailey - (Joe Keller) "All My Sons" Lamp
- ☐ Wayne Erreca - (Danny Brophy) "Children of the Wind" Octad
- ☐ Ray Lybarger - (Bo Decker) "Bus Stop" Octad

Best Supporting Actress (Drama)

- ☐ Jill Drexler - (Dr. Livingston) "Agnes of God" Octad
- ☐ Winona McNitt - (Ann Deever) "All My Sons" Lamp
- ☐ Dawn Newbegin - (Helen Keller) "The Miracle Worker" Octad
- ☐ Ginger Radenheimer - (Grace) "Bus Stop" Octad
- ☐ Sidy Rayfeld - (Mae) "Children of the Wind" Octad

Best Supporting Actor (Drama)

- ☐ Stephan Bair - (Captain Keller) "The Miracle Worker" Octad
- ☐ Andy Boutelle - (George Deever) "All My Sons" Lamp
- ☐ Wayne Erreca - (Will, the sheriff) "Bus Stop" Octad
- ☐ Danny Kolker - (Chris Keller) "All My Sons" Lamp
- ☐ John Mumford - (Dr. Lyman) "Bus Stop" Octad

Best Actress (Comedy)

- ☐ Sue Ellen Gerrells - (Laura Partridge) "Solid Gold Cadillac" Lamp
- ☐ Nancy Errison - (Rosie, the dance hall floozie) "Show-down at the Rodeo Bar & Grill" H.I.T.
- ☐ Debbie Walters - (wife) "Surprise Party" H.I.T.

Best Actor (Comedy)

- ☐ Andy Boutelle - (Clifford Snell) "Solid Gold Cadillac" Lamp
- ☐ Danny Campbell - (Felix Unger) "The Odd Couple" Octad
- ☐ Daniel Hall - (Ted Sterling) "Surprise Party" H.I.T.
- ☐ Mark Rangel (Reporter) "Murder On The Trail" H.I.T.
- ☐ Tom Schmidt - (Oscar Madison) "The Odd Couple" Octad

Best Supporting Actress (Comedy)

- ☐ Kelly Bush - (Gwendolyn Pidgeon) "The Odd Couple" Octad

- ☐ Andrea Clark - (teenage lover) "Surprise Party" H.I.T.
- ☐ Nancy Errison - (Sandy Sterling) "Surprise Party" H.I.T.
- ☐ Katie Gallagher - (Mrs. Logan) "Solid Gold Cadillac" Lamp
- ☐ Cambria Morales - (Cecily Pidgeon) "The Odd Couple" Octad

Best Supporting Actor (Comedy)

- ☐ David Dart - (Bobby Franklin) "Run for Your Wife" Lamp
- ☐ Charlie Dwyer - (Speed) "The Odd Couple" Octad
- ☐ Ski Mark Ford - (Leo Herman/Chuckles) "A Thousand Clowns" Lamp
- ☐ Jeff Anthony Miller - (Malvolio) "Twelfth Night" Octad
- ☐ Neal Sullivan - (Old man) "Surprise Party" H.I.T.

Best Actress (Musical)

- ☐ Aspen Miller - (Maria) "West Side Story" CCT
- ☐ Eleni Gianulis - (Aldonza) "Man Of La Mancha" CCT
- ☐ Stephanie Hargrove - (Fairy Godmother) "Cinderella" CCT
- ☐ Joan Kearns - (Dolly) "Hello Dolly!" Lamplighters

Best Actor (Musical)

- ☐ James McWhinney - (Tony) "West Side Story" CCT
- ☐ William Nolan - (Cervantes/Quixote) "Man Of La Mancha" CCT
- ☐ Justin Parks - (Riff) "West Side Story" CCT
- ☐ Ken Rose - (Ebenezer Scrooge) "Traditions Of Christmas" CCT

Best Supporting Actress (Musical)

- ☐ Ruthann Fraker (Housekeeper) "Man of La Mancha" CCT
- ☐ Marianne Nevitt - (Minnie) "Hello Dolly!" Lamp
- ☐ Kathy Sanchez - (Anita) "West Side Story" CCT
- ☐ Moriah Seebold - (Anybodys) "West Side Story" CCT
- ☐ Elayn Thoeny - (Portia) "Cinderella" CCT

Best Supporting Actor (Musical)

- ☐ Bryant Callihan - (Sancho) "Man Of La Mancha" CCT
- ☐ James Flynn - (The Padre) "Man of La Mancha" CCT
- ☐ Donal Pugh - (Lt. Schrank) "West Side Story" CCT
- ☐ Frank Remate - (Barnaby) "Hello Dolly!" Lamp
- ☐ Steve Richards - (King) "Cinderella" CCT

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| 5# GROUND BEEF | |

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| 25# FRYER CHICKENS | 5# BACON |
| 5# BBQ STEAK | 10# BEEF RIBS |
| 20# END CUT PORK CHOPS | |

Weeks of rumbling end with Yount's dismissal

by Cheryl Cohen

In an unusual show of unity, the Lemon Grove City Council voted unanimously to fire City Manager Doug Yount during a special closed-session meeting Tuesday.

The move comes after declining job performance reviews and council concerns regarding a lack of communication with city council on contract approvals and neglect of city department heads.

More than 10 city staff persons have resigned in recent weeks, the head of Parks and Recreation, Nancy McCadam, has been put on administrative leave and Community Development Director Linda Niles is said to have given her notice and has taken a leave of absence.

Recreation Supervisor Mike Perri has had his share of problems with city management, and recently made public what he viewed as serious issues, starting with Yount's loss of vision, and ending with wholesale neglect of the Rec Department by Public Works.

Perri was on his last day of a two-week notice, trying to decide whether or not to pull his resignation. On his way out of one of the Rec center offices in the fire station Tuesday, he observed the council members emerging from a four-hour closed-door session to reconvene at City Hall.

Perri said he and his supervisor, Mike Hale, overheard the commotion after council members told Yount of their action. Perri observed Yount react strongly by saying he would seek legal counsel.

Yount, visibly upset, then confronted Perri. "You got your wish," he said, according to Perri.

Perri said he advised Yount that if that was his thinking, the two should talk right then and there to straighten things out. Yount immediately apologized.

"It wasn't about getting Doug," said Perri of his recent public statements. "It was about getting my Rec center cleaned up so I can cut my hours back to maybe 40 to 50 a week. I told him, 'look, I'm sorry but sometimes in management, this happens.'"

Yount has not returned calls regarding his firing.



City Manager
Doug Yount

WEATHER

The following information was provided by the National Weather Service

	High	Low
February 1	64	41
February 2	74	39
February 3	72	40
February 4	68	49
February 5	59	48
February 6	61	42
February 7	63	44

Precipitation

February 4	0.40"
February 5	0.20"

The Lemon Grove Review

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Submissions

Letters, editorial and photo submissions are welcome, but will not be returned to sender unless accompanied by self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Material can be sent via e-mail at the following address: yscmr@adnc.com

All materials must be received by the Monday preceding the date of publication. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions.

Advertising

All advertising is subject to current rate card. The publisher reserves the right to reject an advertiser's order.

Only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance.

Send all correspondence to: Forum Publications, Inc., P.O. Box 127, Lemon Grove, CA 91946

Lemon Grove Almanac

1994 Population: 25,100
Incorporated: 1977
Area: 3.75 sq. mi.
Median income: \$34,399
1996-97 city budget: \$26.3 million
1996 taxable sales: \$265 million
Mayor: Mary Teresa Sessom
Council: Thomas Clabby
Craig Lake
Dwight Shelley
Jill Greer

Lemon Grove Fire Log

Jan. 16, 1999

7300 blk. Waite Dr. Evaluate for Police Dept.
7900 blk. Valley View Cir. Difficulty breathing.
7000 blk. Broadway Ave. Broken water pipe
7000 blk. Central Ave. Difficulty breathing
Skyline Dr./Alton Dr. Chest pains
1700 blk. Primera St. Medic alert alarm
3100 blk. Chateau Wy. Seizure
1800 blk. Primera St. Asthma.

Jan. 17, 1999

New Jersey Ave./Tweed St. Vehicle accident.
2000 blk. Skyline Dr. childbirth or related.
3000 blk. Massachusetts Ave. Possible heart.
7500 blk. Pacific Ave. Diabetic problem.
2500 blk. Jamacha Rd. Dumpster fire.
3600 blk. Costa Bella St. Flooding.

Jan. 18, 1999

7400 blk. Pacific Ave. Seizure.
2000 blk. Lemon Grove Ave. Child locked in auto.
1900 blk. El Dora St. Difficulty breathing.
7300 blk. Central Ave. Difficulty breathing.
7700 blk. Canton Dr. Laceration.
7000 blk. San Miguel Ave. Medical aid.
6900 blk. Central Ave. Unconscious.
7600 blk. Pacific Ave. Bleeding.

Jan. 19, 1999

WB Hwy 94/Spring St. Vehicle accident freeway.
3800 blk. Carbo Ct. Medical aid.
4400 blk. Parks Ave. Odor of natural gas residential.

Jan. 20, 1999

7900 blk. Palm St. Ringing alarms commercial.
2200 blk. Massachusetts Ave. Fall.
3700 blk. Grove St. Fall.
WB Hwy 94 OP/SB Hwy 125. Vehicle accident freeway.
8400 blk. Roy St. Possible coroner case.
EB Hwy 94/Spring St. Vehicle accident freeway.
8300 blk. Broadway Ave. Possible stroke.

Lemon Grove Sheriff's Log

Jan. 22, 1999

8500 blk. Palm St. Grand theft, \$1,609

Jan. 27, 1999

7500 blk. Broadway. Vehicular vandalism, \$540 value.

Jan. 28, 1999

2600 blk. Hardy Dr. Residential burglary. No value given.

Jan. 28 - Feb. 1, 1999

2600 blk. Lemon Grove Ave. Commercial burglary, \$8,000 value.

Jan. 30 - Feb. 3, 1999

6900 blk. Mt. Vernon. Grand theft, \$900 value.

Feb. 1, 1999

2600 blk. Washington St. Stolen vehicle, \$2,000 value.
2900 blk. Corona St. Stolen vehicle, \$1,000 value.
7500 blk. Broadway. Petty theft, \$35.82
2300 blk. Chatswood Dr. Vehicle burglary, \$160

Feb. 4, 1999

8500 blk. Calle Sur Ct. Residential burglary, \$690 value.
7000 blk. Broadway. Petty theft, \$249 value.

Feb. 5, 1999

7000 blk. Broadway. Commercial burglary, \$778 value.

Feb. 6, 1999

6300 blk. Quarry Rd. Stolen vehicle, \$17,000 value.

Feb. 7, 1999

1600 blk. Madera St. Stolen vehicle. No value given.

Upcoming Events

Dancers to present masterworks

The Pax Fiat Dance Company will present a program of three multicultural masterworks at 4 p.m. Sunday at the La Mesa First United Methodist Church, 4610 Palm Ave. in La Mesa.

Featuring international dance artists Anthony and Dana Dominic, the program will include: "Missa Criolla," in memory of Mexico's philosopher Octavio Paz, "The Magnificat," an enactment of the promise and advent of the Messiah performed in the style of classical East Indian dance, and "The Upper Room," a tribute to the African-American gospel tradition.

Dana and Anthony Dominic have performed internationally with Martha Graham Presents, the New York State Opera Ballet and toured Europe with Rudolph Nureyev.

Featured as a special Valentine's Day program, Pax Fiat is the third event of the 1998-99 Concert Series at the La Mesa Church, but their first presentation of a dance group.

The public is invited. A free-will offering will be received. For more information, call 466-4163.

La Mesa First United Methodist Church
presents

Pax Fiat Dance Company

in a special Valentine's Day program

Sunday, February 14th
4:00 p.m.

La Mesa First United Methodist Church
4690 Palm Avenue, La Mesa, CA
(Corner of Palm & Lemon Avenues)
(619) 697-2064

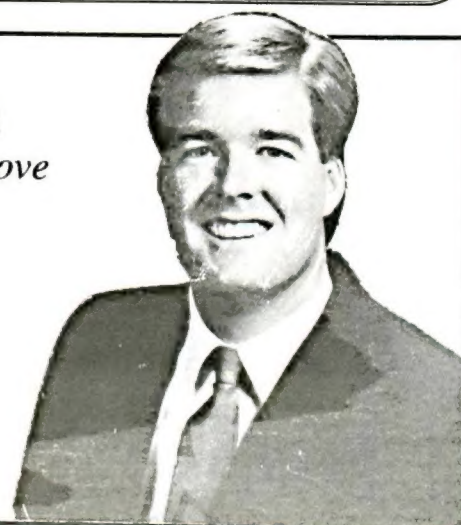
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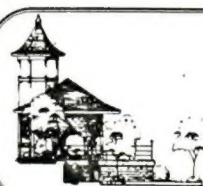
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Chamber of Commerce



Lemon Grove Fire Log

Jan. 16, 1999

7300 blk. Waite Dr. Evaluate for PD.
7900 blk. Valley View Cir. Difficulty breathing.
7000 blk. Broadway Ave. Broken water pipe.
7000 blk. Central Ave. Difficulty breathing.
Skyline Dr./Alton Dr. Chest pains.
1700 blk. Primera St. Medic alert alarm.
3100 blk. Chateau Wy. Seizure.
1800 blk. Primera St. Asthma.

Jan. 17, 1999

New Jersey Ave./Tweed St. Vehicle accident.
2000 blk. Skyline Dr. Child birth or related.
3000 blk. Massachusetts Ave. Possible heart.
7500 blk. Pacific Ave. Diabetic problem.
2500 blk. Jamacha Rd. Dumpster fire.
3600 blk. Costa Bella St. Flooding.

Jan. 18, 1999

7400 blk. Pacific Ave. Seizure.
2000 blk. Lemon Grove Ave. Child locked in auto.
1900 blk. El Dorado St. Difficulty breathing.
7300 blk. Central Ave. Difficulty breathing.
7700 blk. Canton Dr. Laceration.
7000 blk. San Miguel Ave. Medical aid.
6900 blk. Central Ave. Unconscious.
7600 blk. Pacific Ave. Bleeding.

Jan. 19, 1999

WB Hwy 94/Spring St. Vehicle accident freeway.
3800 blk. Carbo Ct. Medical aid.
4400 blk. Parks Ave. Odor of natural gas residential.

Jan. 20, 1999

7900 blk. Palm St. Ringing alarms commercial.
2200 blk. Massachusetts Ave. Fall.
3700 blk. Grove St. Fall.
WB Hwy 94 OP/SB Hwy 125. Vehicle accident freeway.
8400 blk. Roy St. Possible coroner case.
EB Hwy 94/Spring St. Vehicle accident freeway.
8300 blk. Broadway Ave. Possible stroke.
1500 blk. San Altos Pl. Ring removal.

Worship Directory



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8086 BROADWAY, LEMON GROVE, CA 91945
PASTOR MSGR. EDWARD BROCKHAUS

Mass Schedule:

Saturday Evening: 5:30 p.m.

Sunday: 7, 8:30 & 10 a.m. (English) 11:30 a.m. (Spanish)
5:30 p.m. (English), 7 p.m. (Spanish)

LEMON GROVE CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Loving God - Living Christ

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Telephone: 465-7301

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Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

Lemon Grove Christian Church



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PUBLIC NOTICES

This statement was filed with Gregory J. Smith the Recorder/County Clerk of San Diego County on JAN 11 1999
Lemon Grove Review
Feb 4 11 18 & 25 1999

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Assigned File No 99002141

The Name of the Business
SCRIPPS HAIR AND SKIN
GALLERY
located at 9825 Carroll Canyon Rd Ste L & M in San Diego CA 92131 is hereby registered by the following owners:

ROBIN ANDERSON
4658 PARKS AVE
LA MESA, CA 91941

CINDY BRISCO
4658 PARKS AVE
LA MESA, CA 91941

This business is conducted by a General Partnership
The transaction of business began on 1-25-99

Signature of Registrant
ROBIN ANDERSON
This statement was filed with Gregory J. Smith the Recorder/County Clerk of San Diego County on JAN 25 1999
Lemon Grove Review
Feb 4 11 18 & 25 1999

T.S. No. 1543362A Loan No. 1543362
Notice of Trustee's Sale You Are In Default Under A Deed Of Trust Dated 2-25-93. Unless You Take Action To Protect Your Property It May Be Sold At A Public Sale. If You Need An Explanation Of The Nature Of The Proceeding Against You, You Should Contact A Lawyer. Notice is Hereby Given that the real property known as 8301 Garden Ave. Lemon Grove, CA 91945 Assessor's Parcel Number 503-121-22-00. As more fully described in the above mentioned Deed of Trust will be sold at public auction at the front steps of the County Courthouse 220 West Broadway, San Diego, California on 2-26-99 at 10:00AM to the highest bidder payable at the time of sale for cash or cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn on a state or federal savings and loan association savings association or savings bank specified in Financial Code section 5102 and authorized to do business in California. The sale will be made without covenant or warranty, express or implied regarding title possession or encumbrances to satisfy the obligation secured by the Deed of Trust executed by Brad L. Naylack And Renee S. Naylack Husband And Wife as trustee recorded on 3-13-93 recorded as Instrument No. 1993-013242 Book 113 page 1 of the Official Records of San Diego, California. The total amount secured by said instrument as of the time of initial publication of this notice is \$105,534.93 which includes the total amount of the unpaid balance (including accrued and unpaid interest) and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of initial publication of this notice. Dated February 01, 1999 Diana Carlee, Assistant Vice President Serrano Reconveyance Company 4900 Rivergrade Road Suite 2870 Inland Empire CA 91706 (626) 855-4858 For Sales Information Call (714) 573-1965 P116617 2 4 2 11 2 18 99

SUMMARY OF AN ORDINANCE ADDING CHAPTER 18.08 TO TITLE 18 OF THE DEVELOPMENT CODE

ORDINANCE NO. 287

On February 2, 1999, the City Council of the City of Lemon Grove, California, adopted Ordinance No. 287 Ordinance No. 287 adds Chapter 18.08 to Title 18 of the Development Code pertaining to excavation and grading.
Voting for: Sessom Lake Clabby, Greer, Shelley
Abstain: None

The full text of said Ordinance is on file in the Office of the City Clerk at 3232 Main Street, Lemon Grove, California 91945

CHRISTINE TAUB
FINANCE DIRECTOR/CITY CLERK

Lemon Grove Review
February 11, 1999

SUMMARY OF AN ORDINANCE MODIFYING CHAPTER 12.04 OF TITLE 12 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE

ORDINANCE NO. 288

On February 2, 1999, the City Council of the City of Lemon Grove, California, adopted Ordinance No. 288 Ordinance No. 288 modifies Chapter 12.04 of Title 12 of the Municipal Code, which provides that house moving will be performed by a contractor licensed in accordance with the provisions of the Contractor's License Law unless exempted by that law.
Voting for: Sessom Lake Clabby, Greer, Shelley
Abstain: None

The full text of said Ordinance is on file in the Office of the City Clerk at 3232 Main Street, Lemon Grove, California 91945

CHRISTINE TAUB
FINANCE DIRECTOR/CITY CLERK

Lemon Grove Review
February 11, 1999

Clerk at 3232 Main Street, Lemon Grove, California 91945
CHRISTINE TAUB
FINANCE DIRECTOR/CITY CLERK

Lemon Grove Review
February 11, 1999

SUMMARY OF AN ORDINANCE MODIFYING CHAPTER 13.08 OF TITLE 13 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE

ORDINANCE NO. 289

On February 2, 1999, the City Council of the City of Lemon Grove, California, adopted Ordinance No. 289 Ordinance No. 289 modifies Chapter 13.08 of Title 13 of the Municipal Code pertaining to wells and San Diego County Ordinance No. 4286 by reference.
Voting for: Sessom Lake Clabby, Greer, Shelley
Abstain: None

The full text of said Ordinance is on file in the Office of the City Clerk at 3232 Main Street, Lemon Grove, California 91945

CHRISTINE TAUB
FINANCE DIRECTOR/CITY CLERK

Lemon Grove Review
February 11, 1999

SUMMARY OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2.16.01 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE

ORDINANCE NO. 290

On February 2, 1999, the City Council of the City of Lemon Grove, California, adopted Ordinance No. 290 Ordinance No. 290 provides salaries for members of the City Council pursuant to the provision of the Government Code in the sum of five hundred four dollars (\$504.00 per month) commencing upon certification of the results of the election in the year 2000.
Voting for: Sessom Lake Clabby, Greer, Shelley
Abstain: None

The full text of said Ordinance is on file in the Office of the City Clerk at 3232 Main Street, Lemon Grove, California 91945

CHRISTINE TAUB
FINANCE DIRECTOR/CITY CLERK

Lemon Grove Review
February 11, 1999

SUMMONS CITACION JUDICIAL

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:
(Visto a Acusado)
NORA Y COOK, and DOES 1 through 10 inclusive

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY
PLAINTIFF: A U. de. le esta demandando
AMERICAN FIRST FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this Summons is served on you to file a typewritten response at this court.

A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your typewritten response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case.

If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may call an attorney referral service or a legal aid office (listed in the phone book).

Después de que le entreguen esta citación judicial usted tiene un plazo de 30 DIAS CALENDARIOS para presentar una respuesta escrita a máquina en esta corte.

Una carta o una llamada telefónica no le otorgará protección. Su respuesta escrita a máquina tiene que cumplir con las formalidades legales apropiadas si usted quiere que la corte escuche su caso.

Si usted no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso y le pueden quitar su salario, su dinero y otras cosas de su propiedad sin aviso adicional por parte de la corte.

Existen otros requisitos legales. Puede que usted quiera llamar a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de referencia de abogados o a una oficina de ayuda legal (vea el directorio telefónico).

CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso) 98N-C-18084

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y dirección de la corte es)

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF ORANGE
NORTH JUSTICE CENTER
1275 N. Berkeley Avenue
Fullerton, California 92835

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney or plaintiff without an attorney is: (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante o del demandante que no tiene abogado es)

Eric Anthony Joe - Bar #105793
MCKINLEY & CAPELLO
2 N. Lake Avenue, Suite 640
Pasadena, California 91101

TELEPHONE NUMBER
(626) 793-7788

Date (Fecha) SEP 03 1998

ALAN SLATER
Clerk by (Actuano) ELIZABETH ROJAS (Delegado)

CNS 1683620

Lemon Grove Review
Feb 11 18 25 & March 4 1999

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF IDA C. BANVILLE CASE NO. P174016

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both of IDA C. BANVILLE: A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by CLAIRE GARLAND in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN DIEGO.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that CLAIRE GARLAND be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.)

The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on MAR 15, 1999 at 1:45 p.m. in Dept. 35 located at 220 W. BROADWAY, San Diego, CA 92101.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for petitioner: TIMOTHY C. RUTHERFORD and CHARLES SCOTT BARWICK, RUTH RUTHERFORD & SCOTT

3444 Grove Street
Lemon Grove, CA 91945
(619) 465-4600

Lemon Grove Review
Feb 11 16 & 18 1999

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Reel Thoughts

'Rushmore' pokes fun at obsessive love

by Betty Jo Tucker

All's fair in love and war, so the saying goes. "Rushmore" illustrates how obsessive love can lead to war, even between friends.

In this dark comedy from Touchstone Pictures, both Max Fischer (Jason Schwartzman), a 10th grader at Rushmore Academy, and Mr. Blume (Bill Murray), one of the school's chief benefactors, fall in love with Miss Cross (Olivia Williams), an attractive first-grade teacher.

The charismatic student and steel tycoon have developed quite a co-dependency by working together on various school projects. Blume admires Max's energy, while Max needs Blume's money to build an aquarium (on the school's baseball diamond!).

If there's anything Max loves more than Miss Cross, it's his alma mater. He is editor of the school newspaper and yearbook, president of the French Club, German Club, Chess Club, etc., and director of the Max Fischer Players.

When Max gets expelled, then discovers that his friend also loves Miss Cross, he goes bonkers. And the war begins.

Director Wes Anderson and his co-writer Owen Wilson used the Max Fischer character as their impetus for this original script.

In the production notes, Wilson explains, "There's something



At Rushmore Academy Max Fischer (Jason Schwartzman - center) is the head of practically every extra-curricular activity from the debate team to the dodgeball society to the language club in Touchstone Pictures' comedy "Rushmore."

funny about these kinds of characters. They don't have the self-awareness of how they are coming across to others and how kind of strange they are."

Anderson adds, "Max Fischer wants to be considered an expert in every conceivable field. He wants to run the whole operation. And he does not allow the fact that he is not very skilled in most of these areas to dampen his enthusiasm."

What a shame newcomer Schwartzman lacks enough power to carry the demanding lead role. (One wishes this movie could have been made a few years ago with a young Matthew Broderick

as its star.) But comedian Murray saves the day. He gives the performance of his career as the romantically challenged Mr. Blume.

No one ever doubted Murray's comic talent, but who knew the depths of his dramatic ability? He projects a seriocomic intensity here comparable to Charlie Chaplin's classic Little Tramp. Bravo!

If you plan to see a movie on Valentine's Day, "Rushmore" is a good choice. In addition to Murray's outstanding work, the film features a very funny script and valuable insights about the dangers of loving not wisely, but too well.

Strange bedfellows

the Cold War heating up, the U.S. joined forces with anyone who was not of the Socialist ilk.

Then, in 1989, with the destruction of the Berlin Wall, the collapse of the Soviet union and her satellite minions, we like the Russians - again. Why with new and ever-growing business interests, we're even snuggling up to the brutal leaders of China, who could have taught Attila a whole new form of oppression and savagery. And, don't forget that all during the 1980s, the Americans and the Iraqis were on the same side, too, metaphorically speaking.

So, with all of these strange relationships and shifting political treaties (and many, many more I haven't mentioned), one would be hard pressed to find any recent examples of bizarre linkage. Or, would one?

I believe I have located one of the most unholy alliances in the history of mankind and I didn't even have to consult a history book. This one is taking place right before our eyes and no one is saying a word about it. It's the unspoken, but clearly visible agreements between the women's movement and porn publisher Larry Flynt.

Yes, females who couldn't wait to criticize every aspect of the smut industry are now curiously silent as the oily, fleshy Flynt, tied to the Clinton Administration tighter than Alexander the Great's Gordian Knot, continues to "reveal" dirt on Republican lawmakers.

How funny not to see public spokesmen for these groups come forward and denounce Flynt as an exploiter of women and coward hiding behind the First Amendment.

This weird joining of forces and code of silence is second only to the same feminists who are mute on Clinton's adultery (against a woman), his sexual harassments of Paula Jones (a woman) and his using of Monica Lewinsky (also a woman), and others, like old Kleenex tissues.

Yes, it's strange that none of these people are speaking up (consequently, the mainstream media is not reporting anything). In fact, the only person that seems to be doing all of the talking is Bill Clinton.

And unfortunately for this country, most of the idiots dwelling within seem to be listening to him.

E-mail says the darndest things

by Bob Burns

It was either this or write about the impeachment hearings. Thought there might be something new here rather than there are some phrases that should be on buttons:

Make yourself at home! Clean my kitchen
Who are all these kids and why are they calling me. "Mom?"
Don't bother me. I'm living happily ever after.
Nice perfume. Must you marinate in it?
Not all men are annoying. Some are dead.
Ambivalent? Well, yes and no.
Earth is full. Go home.
Is it time for your medication, or mine??
I plead contemporary insanity
Did I mention the kick in the groin you'll be receiving if you touch me?
I refuse to star in your psychodrama.
I'm not tense, just terribly, terribly alert.
Meandering to a different drummer.
I majored in liberal arts. Want fries with that?
Here I am! Now what are your other two wishes?
I'm trying to imagine you with a personality.
Back off, you are standing in my aura.
Don't worry, I forgot your name, too.
I just want revenge - is that so wrong??
Adults are just kids who owe money.
I can't remember if I'm the evil twin or the good one.
See no evil. Hear no evil. Date no evil.
Allow me to introduce myself.
Do they ever shut up on your planet?
Adult child of alien invaders.
Let me show you how the guards used to do it.
I'm just working here 'til a fast food job opens up
I started off with nothing, and have most of it left.

Letters to the Editor

Attila knows best

I was very impressed, while reading Steven Saint's article, "Attila the Dad" (Jan. 28 issue), to know that there are still parents who will not succumb to a child's entreaties that everybody else is doing it, so why can't I?

They are willing to train up a child in the way he should go, so when he is older, he will not depart far from it, especially when raising his family.

Parents have a responsibility to love and care for each other and rear their children in love and righteousness, provide for their physical and spiritual needs, be law-abiding citizens wherever they live and be held accountable for the discharge of these obligations.

In promoting these measures, to maintain and strengthen the family as a fundamental unit of society, I know that such parents will be keeping uppermost in their minds three great loyalties: God - Family - and Country.

CANDIDA CANGE
El Cajon

Prop. L another bureaucrat's con job

PROPOSITION L? Yep, it's a con job! You're being propositioned, again, by the tax and spend crowd.

San Diego County sales tax revenues increased from \$1.81 billion in 1995, to \$1.94 billion in 1996, to \$2.10 billion in 1997. That's a \$160 million increase for 1997 alone - more than double the amount asked for in the March Proposition calling for a 1/4-percent increase in sales taxes to fund libraries.

The government's percentage share of a growing economy already provides for a growing government. But the self-serving bureaucracies would rather starve libraries at budget time, then make passionate pleas when working the landscape for ever more revenue.

This is a shell game. It's a sham and a shame.

An 8-percent tax rate makes out-of-state cities look even better when corporations do comparative analyses between high and low tax regions. I thought we learned increased taxes were dysfunctional in the 1980s, when California went into the tank.

Since sales taxes are regressive, sales would increase if the sales tax rate were decreased, thus increasing sales tax revenues. The higher the tax, the more the poor will pay, and the greater the incentive for the wealthy to make their large purchases out of state.

The proponents say they will do a better job educating us this time. The education is always the same: the tax is temporary, painless and for a good cause. They've been saying that since the sales tax was 3 percent.

Now, for the demand side of the equation, however many hundreds of thousands of books are provided, if libraries were staffed 24 hours a day, and they were Taj Mahals, would children, or anyone else, read any more books than they read now?

If you believe they would, vote yes. If you trust government budgeting, vote yes. If you can live with a little less vibrant economy, vote yes. If you think the bureaucrats can spend your money better than you can, vote yes.

JACK MOORE
Lemon Grove

Commentary

by Greg Eichelberger

Between the years 375 and 454 AD, the Huns, a nomadic Asian people, swept down from the steppes north of the Black Sea to invade and pillage the Roman Empire before returning home.

Attila, their most famous general, was dedicated to gaining riches from the still-prosperous Romans. In 441-42 and again in 447, they devastated the Balkan provinces, reaching as far south as Thessalonica and Constantinople (now Istanbul, Turkey).

The Huns then invaded what is now Belgium and turned their attention to Orleans (in modern day France). In 451, the Roman legions, commanded by Flavius Aetius, joined with their blood enemies, the Visigoths (a tribe of western Goths, or barbarians, for lack of a better term) under the leadership of Theodoric, to stop the Mongol horde.

After a desperate fight at the battle of Chalons-sur-Marne, the Huns broke the Roman center, but the Visigoth right flank and Gauls (French) held and pushed the Huns back to their camp. Attila withdrew across the Rhine and never offered pitched battle again with the Romans or their allies, opting instead to raid towns and villages in the path of his retreat. The conflict is regarded as one of the most influential in history, stemming the tide of Hun expansion into the West.

But this is not the first example of strange bedfellows uniting for a common cause.

Centuries later, the French joined us in defeating the British and establishing the United States. We fought the English again in 1812, even invading Canada in the process.

Since World War I, however, we've formed an almost unbreakable U.S.-Anglo alliance. In 1939 the Nazis signed a non-aggression pact with the Soviets, guaranteeing the division of Poland (few people comment on Russia's invasion of eastern Poland on the same day Germany attacked her western borders).

In 1941, with Germans heading towards Moscow, Stalingrad and Leningrad, the Reds were now in bed with the Allies. After World War II, Winston Churchill made his famous "Iron Curtain" speech, the Berlin Blockade took place and Communists from Korea invaded their brethren to the south. With

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PHOTOGRAPHY
BY LORA

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Lamplighters' 'Taking Stock' is a not-so-funny comedy

by Jason Williams

If "Solid Gold Cadillac" was the third-time charmer in the Lamplighter's Community Theater series of comedies, the fourth appears to be one too many.

Shot in the foot by a crippled script, the production limps along not unlike any wounded animal — making little progress and inviting a lot of pity.

"Taking Stock," by Richard Schotter, the fourth show in Lamplighters' current season, opened last week. It is a half-hearted attempt at a dramatic-comedy, though it is neither dramatic nor comedic.

The play was first produced by the Jewish Repertory Theater in New York, and ran for less than a month. The story follows two weeks in the lives of Sam Baker (Ray Fraggi) and Alvi Stone (Les Payne), owners and operators of Sam and Alvi's Sporting Goods, located on the Upper West Side of Manhattan.

Having been in business together for 40 years, the two made it through life, death and changing times by clinging to the one aspect of their lives which has remained constant — their store.

Facing tough times and the possibility of closing shop in the

face of rising rent at the hands of their landlord, Howie Golden (Randy Coull), and former customer, Sam and Alvi must decide between life in the fast lane, or death in the slow one.

These two men are to have shared a friendship and a business for 40 years, yet the relationship on stage comes across more like old casual acquaintances.

The brief visits to the stage by Randy Coull, playing Howie Golden, were enjoyable interludes between the long scenes of grating argument from the two shopkeepers.

A talented character actor, Coull has been seen at Lamplighter's before, both in the 1997 Director's Showcase and in "Father of the Bride."

The dilemma of a full life over a slow death is a fine theme. In this play, however, it appears to be handled by the playwright as almost a subplot, or subtheme. Incessant whining and arguing over stock in the store taking place throughout the production by Sam and Alvi serves as the background music.

It is really a theme which should be all or none. Presented as little bits thrown in here or there to resuscitate a dying script, is ineffective.

The script possesses only continuity and no driving force to propel the anticlimactic story which is neither plot, nor character driven.

The playwright can be congratulated for recognizing that society's idea of a hero has changed over the years.

In today's world sometimes the choices an individual makes can place them within a heroic light. But a hero is still someone out of the ordinary. Although they can come from any walk of life, it is the situation, or some element of their experience which sets them above the rest and makes them a hero.

Sam and Alvi are not believable as heroes.

Ray Fraggi portrays Sam Baker, the salesman turned scholar in the face of his wife's death, drowning his sorrows in the pages of countless magazines.

Fraggi has worked with a number of local theater companies, including Carlsbad Play Readers, Sledgehammer Theater, Coronado Playhouse, San Diego Repertory Theater and Scripps Ranch Community Theater.

Les Payne plays the role of Alvi Stone, a strict businessman. Payne comes from 25 years on the East Coast theater scene,



Les Payne (left), Randy Coull (center) and Ray Fraggi do their best to overcome the script in the Lamplighters production of "Taking Stock."

bringing experience in both acting and directing, and having under his belt such shows as, "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," "Steel Magnolias" and "Crimes of the Heart."

The production was staged on a magnificent set depicting the sporting goods shop. Adorned in donated sports equipment, it was very pleasing to the eye and allowed for a very realistic setting.

I would not say the show will ever be great, but it can strive for tolerable. Every show is susceptible to the second night slump,

however for "Taking Stock," the slump exists in the script itself.

At the close of the show, Alvi delivers the line, "A fool is the guy who stops dancing, not the guy who dances hard."

Maybe it should have been a musical.

After four comedies in a row for Lamplighters, it is time to move on.

The production runs through March 7 with performances at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and 2 p.m. on Sundays, plus one tonight at 8 p.m.



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